

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING DR. PETE MEHAS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Pete Mehas for being chosen as the 2001 recipient of the Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award. The Rose Ann Vuich Award, which was established in 1998, aims to recognize elected leaders who symbolize integrity, strength of character, and exemplary ethical behavior.

Dr. Peter Mehas is in his third term as Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. He is a dedicated public servant who began serving the community of Fresno as a teacher in 1963. He quickly progressed from assistant principal at Clovis High School, to principal, to assistant superintendent, to associate superintendent in the Clovis Unified School District. Dr. Mehas holds a lifetime California Standard Secondary Teaching Credential and General Elementary Credential, as well as a lifetime School Service Credential in General Administration.

In 1987, Dr. Mehas was appointed by Governor Deukmejian as his Chief Advisor on matters relating to all public education in the state of California. President George Bush, in 1991, appointed Dr. Mehas to a 17 member advisory commission to implement his executive order on Latino education. In 1998, Governor Pete Wilson appointed Dr. Mehas to the California Community College Board of Governors.

The Rose Ann Vuich Award is sponsored by the Fresno Business Council, the Fresno Bee, and the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute of Public Affairs. The award honors Senator Vuich, who consistently maintained high ethical standards and earned bipartisan respect throughout her career in the State legislature. The award aims to recognize elected leaders who symbolize integrity, strength of character, and exemplary ethical behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Dr. Pete Mehas for being chosen as the recipient of the Rose Ann Vuich Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in praising Dr. Pete Mehas for his years of educational service in my district.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES WEIDMAN DANCE CONSORT: MEZZACAPPA-GABRIAN AND YOUNG DANCERS IN REPERTORY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to celebrate the Centenary of Charles Weidman (1901–1975), American modern dance pioneer, this year. Mr. Weidman, along

with Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Hanya Holm and Lester Horton, forges a new art form which was truly American.

Mr. Weidman, who was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, on July 22, 1901, was the foremost male dancer of his era. In 1928, Mr. Weidman and his partner, Doris Humphrey established a company and school devoted to exploring a new aesthetic. During his time, Mr. Weidman gave important encouragement to male dancers, developing a system of exercises for them which endowed the Humphrey-Weidman Company with a stimulating virility. In 1933 he choreographed *Candide*, the first full length modern dance work. In addition, his invention of kinetic pantomime, a non-representational pantomime, was yet another of his major contributions to the dance world. Mr. Weidman and Miss Humphrey were the first American modern dance choreographers to compose dances for Broadway shows. In addition, Weidman was the first choreographer for the New York City Opera. Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Weidman's versatility as a choreographer lead him to create dramatic, lyric, abstract, historic, and comic works, as well as works for Broadway shows, revues, and operas. His large body of work reflects his serious humanistic concerns, hit wit, and his clarity as a choreographer. Throughout his career, Mr. Weidman trained and influenced many dancers through the Humphrey-Weidman Company and as a Master Teacher on his own, including: Gene Kelly, Alvin Ailey, Jose Limon, Bob Fosse, Charles Morre, and Jack Cole. Mr. Weidman not only had a profound influence upon the development of American modern dance, but was also influential in the rise of American jazz dance.

The arts have always been a factor in the developing of a great society, and both performance and visual arts have played a crucial role in the development of this great nation. I wish to personally thank Dance Consort: Mezzacappa-Gabrian and youth organization Young Dancers in Repertory. I also would like to thank them and wish them the best of luck as they go abroad to represent us in Italy during the Dance Grand Prix Italia 2001.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS ON ITS 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of St. Francis, Wisconsin, which I am proud to say is in my congressional district.

The area that is now St. Francis was once home to bands of the Menomonee and Potawatomi nations until the lands were ceded to the U.S. in the 1830s. Once a French trading post and part of the Northwest Territory, this area was soon settled by farmers, and in 1840, it became part of the Town of Lake.

Despite enormous growth in population in the early 1900's and several incorporation attempts, the area remained the Town of Lake for over 100 years. However, as the City of Milwaukee continued to expand after World War II, concerns about being annexed with Milwaukee grew. Determined to maintain a separate identity from Wisconsin's largest city, a small group of area business people and community leaders began to rally support for incorporation. Their efforts paid off, as residents approved the plan by nearly a 3 to 1 margin, and in 1951, the City of St. Francis was born.

Incorporation wasn't easy. Banks didn't think the municipality was financially viable, and finding the money to provide city services proved difficult. But the citizens of St. Francis refused to give up on their dream to make their new city a success. Through the adversity grew a very special spirit of community activism and pride. Volunteers put in countless hours, serving on commissions and committees, working on projects and events, helping make St. Francis a wonderful place to live and work.

That same community spirit is still alive and well in the City of St. Francis today. Volunteers still sit on municipal committees and plan and run events like the 4th of July Celebration and St. Francis Days. Community organizations and volunteers have joined together to build a community center, a library and a veteran's memorial.

And so it is quite fitting that civil groups such as the St. Francis Historical Society are working hard to make the City of St. Francis' 50th anniversary a very special celebration for a very special community. It is with great pleasure that I wish St. Francis a very happy 50th birthday, and extend my best wishes for a long and prosperous future for the city and all its residents.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to honor our late colleague, Congressman JOE MOAKLEY.

JOE MOAKLEY exemplified what public service is supposed to be. He served his country in the Navy, went on to represent his friends and neighbors in the State of Massachusetts and then brought his dedication to the people of Boston to the United States Congress. He served with honor, compassion and a genuine belief that he was doing the best he could for the people who put him there. His commitment

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to helping people reached from the streets of Boston to the people of El Salvador. His humor and smile brought much-needed optimism and enthusiasm to Congress, and he made this a better place to work.

JOE was always there for the people he represented, and he was always there for his friends. When my own family struggled to cope with a serious health problem just a few years ago, JOE was there to encourage and support us through that very difficult time. His understanding and concern were a great source of comfort, and I hope that the incredible outpouring of tributes celebrating JOE's life will bring that same comfort to his loved ones.

Few people are as big-hearted and giving as JOE, and he will be sorely missed. His memory and good works will live on and continue to touch and improve the lives of people in Boston, in the United States, and around the globe.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE JOHN JOSEPH
MOAKLEY, A REPRESENTATIVE
FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and colleague, the Honorable JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY.

The passing of Congressman MOAKLEY was a tremendous loss to this Congress, and we should continue to honor his memory as befits a man of his stature. In both his personal life and his service in this body he displayed the highest values of statesmanship, and with that service an unparalleled quality of character.

Joe brought hard work and integrity to this body, and he fought for people everywhere. He worked to provide for the people in his home of South Boston. He also championed human rights. In 1989 he chaired a special commission to investigate the killings of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador. After concluding his duty on the commission, he continued to fight for democracy and freedom for the people of El Salvador. He also fought to make education affordable and available for all, claiming, "student loans and public education are the essence of the American dream." Throughout his public service career he ensured that this dream would be realized by our youth.

Throughout his years in Congress, Mr. MOAKLEY was magnanimous and respectful of all his colleagues. Those who worked with him closely in the Rules Committee and on the House floor, always refer to his wit, humor and professional demeanor regardless of how controversial an issue might have been. He may have disagreed with you, but he would always respect you. He was a true friend to members on both sides of the aisle.

I wish to express my sympathies to the family and friends of Congressman MOAKLEY, and the members of his staff; and to Mr. McGovern, in particular, who worked for Mr. MOAKLEY for 13 years before running for Congress himself. I urge all of my colleagues to strive to

emulate JOE MOAKLEY, and embrace the statesmanship and integrity he brought to this chamber.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARIDAD
GARCIA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caridad Garcia for her outstanding achievements as a successful producer and radio personality of numerous Spanish broadcasting programs. I am also here today to pay tribute to Caridad Garcia for her great accomplishments as a public relations consultant.

Caridad Garcia began her distinguished career in 1989, as Executive Director of the Hope Line Program in New York City. While heading up the Hope Line Program, she created and directed a centralized bilingual outreach, information, referral, and advocacy program for Hispanic residents living in New York City. Through her efforts, she was able to ensure that Spanish-speaking residents living in New York City's metropolitan area had access to vital information affecting their communities.

As a public relations consultant, Ms. Garcia has organized and produced several public relations campaigns targeting consumers in the Hispanic community. Between 1992 and 1994, she handled consumer outreach and public relation initiatives for Downy Fabric Softener and Procter and Gamble.

Currently, Caridad Garcia is Director of Promotions, Public Relations, and Public Affairs at Radio Unica. Radio Unica is the only radio station in the United States to broadcast in Spanish 24-hours a day. As a result of her hard work, Radio Unica now reaches approximately 80 percent of the U.S. Latino population through a group of stations and affiliates nationwide.

For the past two decades, Caridad Garcia has served as an exceptional role model for the Latino community and for all Americans.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Caridad Garcia for her exceptional contributions in the field of radio broadcasting, and for her selfless service to her community and country.

A TRIBUTE TO NKOSI JOHNSON

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, The blessing of his life is that he showed a lot of people how to live . . . not just people infected with HIV/AIDS—but a lot of us . . . He taught us how to share. He taught us how to give . . . He taught us how to forgive—Diane Stevens.

Although we are generally aware of the ravages of AIDS in Africa, few of us have an opportunity to see first hand the personal destruction on individuals. Each year four million people on the African Continent are afflicted with this terrible disease. Hardest hit are the children. Many are orphaned when parents die, many are born with HIV/AIDS.

Xolani Nkosi Johnson was born with the HIV/AIDS virus. When Nkosi was three years of age, his mother died of complications due to AIDS. Nkosi was the international spokesperson for children infected with HIV/AIDS. He was the inspiration behind Nkosi's Haven, a care center for infected women and children in Johannesburg, South Africa. A gifted and experienced speaker, Nkosi traveled the world delivering his message in his own words on how AIDS has affected his life, what help the international community can render, the benefits of empowerment initiatives, and the importance of community support.

When Nkosi was old enough to attend school, his HIV status set off a firestorm in the public schools system. School officials were reluctant to allow him to attend school. Nkosi took his case to the media and government officials, and as a result, legislation was passed in South Africa that assures that all children will have the right to attend school regardless of their medical status.

Nkosi was indeed a brave young man. His courage and commitment to the children of South Africa was never ending until his untimely death on June 1, 2001.

So long Brave Warrior King (Nkosi is the Zulu word for King).

CONGRATULATING BARBARA
GOODWIN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Barbara Goodwin for being chosen as the recipient of the Excellence in Public Service Award for 2001. The Excellence in Public Service Award honors courage, integrity and the striving for excellence by someone in the public sector.

Barbara is currently the Executive Director of the Council of Fresno County Governments (COG), a position she has held since June of 1994. She has extensive experience with the responsibilities and functions of a metropolitan planning organization and regional transportation-planning agency. Barbara is currently the chairperson of the San Joaquin Valley GOG Directors Association. She also currently serves on Fresno County's United Way Vision 20/20 Leadership Committee. She is a cum laude graduate of California State University, Fresno, with a B.A. Degree in Journalism/Public Relations.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Barbara Goodwin for being chosen as the recipient of the Excellence in Public Service Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Barbara Goodwin many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO TARIQUINA ALVAREZ-
DILLARD

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tarquina Alvarez-Dillard, a constituent who received the 2001 Outstanding Clinician

Award from the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association.

Tarquina has worked for over 25 years at the Women's Health Care Clinic in Torrance, California. This Clinic serves over 14,000 women annually and would not succeed without the commitment of individuals like Tarquina.

Following knee surgery in 1996, for example, she returned to the Clinic wearing a cast in order not to fall behind in her work. When a fellow practitioner injured her hand, Tarquina took over that person's breast exams in addition to her own caseload. Her efforts set the standard for dedication.

In 1996, Tarquina was the recipient of the "Unsung Hero Award" from Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. She was also voted Employee of the Year for 1998 and 1999.

Providing women safe and affordable access to health care is among my highest priorities in Congress. While there are actions I can—and do—take in Congress, their implementation depends on dedicated workers like Tarquina.

I am proud to join Tarquina's colleagues and friends in congratulating her on the receipt of this prestigious national award and invite my colleagues to join me in commending her exemplary public service.

ENSURING THAT NO CHILD IS
LEFT BEHIND REQUIRES MORE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the House has taken a major step in supporting the federal government's role in education with the passage of H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act, which re-authorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Through this legislation, we have made a \$22.8 billion commitment for elementary and secondary education programs—a \$5 billion increase over last year.

Specifically, this comprehensive measure authorizes \$11.5 billion for Title I grants, which assist school districts serving economically disadvantaged students; requires states and school districts to issue report cards on aspects of student performance and teacher qualifications; requires all teachers to achieve state certification by 2005; and allocates \$1.3 billion for afterschool programs, including the 21st Century Learning Centers and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools.

I am also pleased that amendments calling for the implementation of block grants and private school vouchers were soundly defeated during floor consideration of H.R. 1. While H.R. 1 consolidates thirteen programmatic titles under ESEA into six, the current funding structure remains intact. Federal dollars will continue to go directly to the local school districts rather than be needlessly funneled through a state's bureaucracy.

Furthermore, although the Act provides public school choice as well as private tutorial services to Title I students in consistently failing schools, it does not create a private school

voucher program. I have consistently opposed any private voucher proposal because it would undermine public financing for public schools and provide no guarantee that low-income students would have any meaningful choice. The House's rejection of these provisions reaffirms Congress' bi-partisan support of public education.

Despite these many achievements during consideration of the No Child Left Behind Act, there remain several shortcomings which I hope are addressed during the House-Senate conference. In particular, I am disappointed with the House's failure to authorize funds for class size reduction and school renovation and construction. We have again missed the opportunity to bring older schools into the new century and ensure that our children learn in safe facilities with the most modern amenities and technology.

Unfortunately, the primary focus of "reform" has been on testing. In the name of accountability, more testing will be mandated with little financial support from the federal government. Given that many states have failed to comply with current law calling on states to

Moreover, I, along with my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), have concerns with H.R. 1's treatment of the Limited English Proficient (LEP) student population. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a diagnostic tool to be used to audit the results of state assessments, does not administer a Spanish language reading test. Additionally, H.R. 1 unwisely consolidates immigrant, bilingual, and foreign language education into a single formula grant program. It would also require parents to opt-in to Title I LEP services and bilingual education and would subject bilingual education programs to a 3-year limit.

In their March 3, 2001 letter to President Bush, Congressman REYES, Chair of the CHC, and Congressman HINOJOSA, Chair of the CHC Education Task Force, voiced the CHC's opposition to the above provisions. First, tests provided in only English could result in inaccurate assessments of student performance for LEP students. Second, because LEP children have diverse needs and skills, a one-size fits-all approach is impractical. Establishing an arbitrary three year instructional time limit is short-sighted and contrary to the objectives of bilingual education, which is the academic achievement of LEP students in addition to English proficiency. Finally, opt-in provisions will place cumbersome procedural requirements on school districts and potentially dissuade them from providing educational instruction to LEP students. LEP students should be automatically enrolled in bilingual education programs and allowed to opt out of them if their parents so choose.

The conference version of the ESEA's reauthorization should incorporate language that provides better funding, requires no time limits, contains no opt-in provisions, and maintains immigrant, bilingual, and foreign language education as three separate programs. As an educator and supporter of public schools, I will continue to seek the resources our schools need to succeed. We have an obligation to provide fair and equal access to quality education for our children so that truly no child is left behind. Until we are truly ready to commit ourselves to educating all our chil-

dren with the best we can offer, we cannot honestly say we have left no child behind.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH AND
VICTORIA COTCHETT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to my dear friends, Victoria and Joseph Cotchett of Hillsborough, California. These two extraordinary people are being honored for their civic involvement in the Bay Area by the Volunteer Center of San Mateo County with the prestigious "Very Important Volunteer Award" (VIVA).

Mr. Speaker, both Cotchett's are deeply involved in a wide spectrum of community activities and give freely of their time and resources to numerous community organizations. Victoria serves on the advisory board of many woman's groups, including the Woman's Protective Services of San Mateo County and Families in Transition. She is a founding director of the Wiegand Museum of Art at the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, and she previously served on the boards of the San Mateo County Hospital Foundation and the Peninsula Humane Society.

As a longtime supporter of the arts, Victoria is a member of the Board of Directors of the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts here in Washington, DC, and she is currently leading an effort to develop a Children's Film Festival in association with the Sundance Film Festival.

A former Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, a JAG Officer, and a former Special Forces paratrooper officer, Joe Cotchett is a graduate of California Polytechnic College. He earned his law degree from the University of California's Hastings College of Law. Joe was recognized as one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyer in America," by the news media and in 1990 was named Trial Lawyer of the Year by Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. He is a leader of numerous professional organizations, is the author of several books on legal practice, and is a past officer of the California State Bar.

Mr. Speaker, Joe's record of commitment to our community is equally as distinguished as that of his wife. He is director of the Bay Meadows Foundation, Disability Rights Advocates, and a Commissioner on the State Parks Commission. He also serves as Director of the University of California's Hastings College of Law, President of the San Mateo Boys and Girls Club, and Chairman of the Heart Fund Finance for the San Mateo County Heart Association.

Mr. Speaker, Victoria and Joe are proud parents of two girls and represent the very best of our many volunteer citizens on the Peninsula. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to these two outstanding community leaders and congratulating them on receiving this prestigious award.

HONORING SIDNEY PERMISSON

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the achievements of Sidney Permisson, an outstanding and dynamic member of Broward County whose numerous contributions will leave a lasting effect on the Sunrise community. Mr. Permisson, who passed away on May 13, 2001, was a civic activist in Broward County for over twenty years.

Sidney Permisson was born on February 28, 1916, and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He completed two years of studies at Brooklyn College before he had to leave school to help support his parents. Mr. Permisson worked at a Brooklyn bakery for eight years and eventually became a delegate for the Cake Bakers Union, Local 51. During this time he married Pauline Kravitz, his wife of 62 years. His work in the union eventually led him to become a mediator and a labor chief, where he stood up for hard-working men and women with no political clout or financial influence. Sidney Permisson retired in 1975 and moved to Sunrise, Florida.

Upon his arrival, Mr. Permisson quickly became active in the community. As his two daughters, Joyce Japelle and Elayna Finkle, will tell you, he believed in hard work, helping others, and doing the right thing. Friends describe Sidney Permisson as compassionate, sincere, honest, and always there to help. He fought to establish a countywide trauma network, led a powerful condominium association, worked for environmental protection, kept tabs on local tax and education issues, and spoke out about consumer rights, good government, and health care. He was an inspiring public speaker. When Sidney spoke, people listened.

His efforts in the community brought him a great deal of deserved recognition. Mr. Permisson received the Sunrise Volunteer of the Year Award twice, in 1987 and 1988. In 1989, as president of the Gold Key Civic Association, a social assistance organization for Sunrise area residents, Mr. Permisson received the President's Special Recognition Award issued by the Broward Regional Health Planning Council. He won the Sunrise Political Club Humanitarian Award in 1990. Also in 1990, he was elected to the Broward Senior Hall of Fame for Outstanding Volunteer Service. As President of the Statewide HMO Ombudsman Committee from 1996 to 1997, Sidney Permisson worked for the establishment of 11 statewide HMO Ombudsman councils to help solve problems between subscribers and managed care providers. Finally, he received the HMO Patient Advocate Award and the Broward Regional Health Planning Council Dedicated Service Award in 1996.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of Sidney Permisson are a testament to his dedication and his passion. He leaves a lasting legacy for the people of Broward County which greatly enriches our community.

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD M. BRENNAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Richard M. Brennan, Cleveland Municipal Judge.

Judge Brennan, as he was known for 22 years, was elected in 1965 as the chief justice of the court. Even though they cancelled his position in the mid-1970s, he continued working as an associate judge, for he was continually striving to uphold the deepest integrity of the law. During these years, Judge Brennan accomplish many things. One of his most outstanding achievements was when he mobilized community support for the construction of the Justice Center. When it was unanimously approved by voters in 1969, the whole community was extremely pleased. Judge Brennan also played a vital role in devising a docket system in which lawsuits are delegated to judges.

Judge Brennan, who was an assistant Cleveland law director from 1960 to 1965, graduated from St. Ignatius High School, John Carroll University, and the Cleveland Marshall Law School. He unfortunately retired from Cleveland Municipal Judge in 1987 due to illness. Judge Brennan will forever be missed.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Judge Richard M. Brennan, a man that has touched the Cleveland community in countless ways. His love, dedication, and honor will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JUSTICE MARTIN DIES, JR.**HON. JIM TURNER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Justice Martin Dies, Jr., who recently passed away on May 14, 2001 after a full life of eighty years.

Justice Dies, the son of U.S. Congressman Martin Dies Sr., and Myrtle Dies grew up and was educated in Orange, Texas. He later attended the University of Virginia in Washington, D.C. and later, Stephen F. Austin University where he received his B.S. degree. When the United States entered World War II Justice Dies left college to volunteer with the Navy.

While at officer's school in New York, Martin was chosen as Commander of the Third Battalion. He was later presented a Gold Sword at graduation as the outstanding member of the Battalion. In the war, Martin saw extensive naval combat in both the Philippines and in Okinawa, for which he received several medals and military citations. After Justice Dies' ship was ordered to repel the Japanese invasion at the Battle of Leyte, the entire crew received the prestigious Presidential Unit Citation for bravery.

Near the end of the war Justice Dies saw duty as Captain of the U.S.S. *Richard W. Seusers*.

Following the war, Justice Dies completed his legal education at Southern Methodist Uni-

versity Law School. In 1947, he was named a member of the Barristers at SMU. While attending law school, he married Ruth Marie White of Lufkin in 1946. Upon graduation, he began practicing law with the firm Dies, Anderson and Dies.

In 1959 Justice Dies was elected to the Texas Senate from the Third Senatorial District. During his tenure in the Senate, he was widely recognized as a moving force in the effort to modernize government services for the disabled, for which he received numerous awards. Additionally, Justice Dies took great interest in improving the Texas park system. In 1965 the 750 acre park at the Dam B. Reservoir was named in his honor. The Martin Dies, Jr. State Park has been widely praised as one of the most beautiful and visited public parks in Texas.

In 1969, Justice Dies was sworn in as Secretary of State of Texas. Two years later, he was appointed Chief Justice of the 9th Court of Appeals where he served with distinction until his retirement in 1989. During that time he served on the Texas Judicial Council, serving four years as the President of the Council. He also received the Texas Handicapped Person of the Year Award, was a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and served as a member of the Judicial Manpower Commission.

Justice Dies will be remembered for his great courage, his high moral and ethical standards, and above all, his compassion for others. We share our grief with his family at his passing, as we were honored to share the joy of his life.

RETIREMENT OF DR. DAVID E. EPPERSON**HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe that Dr. David E. Epperson, Dean of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work, is retiring after nearly 30 years.

Dean Epperson is the longest-serving dean of social work in the country. Having served in this position since 1972, he has also served as a dean at Pitt longer than anyone else in the school's history. Under his leadership, the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work has tripled in size and become one of the nation's foremost graduate schools for social work.

Dean Epperson is a University of Pittsburgh alumnus as well. He earned a bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, and a Ph.D. in political science and public policy at Pitt. He has studied in Hong Kong and Turkey as well.

In addition to his academic career, Dr. Epperson worked for the YMCA both in Pittsburgh and Hong Kong. He currently serves on the National Board of Directors and International Committee of the YMCA of the USA, as well as the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan YMCA of Pittsburgh. He was also the former executive director of Community Action Pittsburgh, Incorporated.

Dean Epperson has also found the time to be very active in community affairs. He has served on the State Planning Board, the Judicial Reform Commission for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, The Pennsylvania Humanities Council, and the State Compensation

Commission. He has served as chairman of the board of the Urban League of Pittsburgh, the Negro Educational Emergency Drive, and the Riverfront Working Group for the City of Pittsburgh. He has served on the board of directors of the Salvation Army, ACTION-Housing, the American Red Cross, Magee-Womens Hospital, the Pittsburgh Council for International Visitors, and the PNC Urban Advisory Board. And he has served as a trustee of the National Urban League and the National Center for Social Policy and Practice. He has served as deacon and trustee at the Mac-edonia Baptist Church as well.

Currently Dean Epperson is the Vice Chairman of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, and he serves on the Allegheny County Department of Human Services Oversight Committee, the William J. Copeland Fund Advisory Committee of the Pittsburgh Foundation, the Lemington Home Advisory Board of the Pittsburgh Foundation. He is also a Trustee of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and its Metro-Urban Ministry Advisory Board.

Finally, Dean Epperson has also been active in a number of professional organizations, and he has received many, many awards recognizing his many important contributions and accomplishments.

David E. Epperson is a remarkably talented man who has a tremendous impact at the University of Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania in the course of his long and productive professional career. I am certain that Dean Epperson will continue to be active in community affairs after his retirement as well. A dinner honoring Dean Epperson on the occasion of his retirement will be held in Pittsburgh tomorrow. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I want to wish him well at this milestone in his life.

A TRIBUTE TO BRETT KAUBLE,
MICHAEL KRUSE, MICAH KUBIC

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three students from my district: Brett Kauble of Kansas City, Michael Kruse of Platte City, and Micah Kubic of Kansas City for winning the Congressional Award Gold Medal. In obtaining this award they have spent the last two years completing 400 hours of community service, 200 hours of both personal development and physical fitness activities, and a four-night expedition or exploration.

The Congressional Award challenges our nation's young people to realize their full potential through goal setting in the areas of public service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration. These three students are an outstanding example of the promise and bright future of this nation. The lessons they have learned striving towards this award will serve them well in future pursuits. This award is a testament not only to the talent, commitment, and discipline of these students, but also to their families, communities and schools who supported these students along the way. For their hard work and dedication I congratulate them. I applaud their accomplish-

ment today and I encourage them to always pursue future goals with the same vigor.

HONORING LEONARD ABESS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonard Abess, a successful banker whose philanthropy during his 97 years of life contributed greatly to the enrichment of the Miami community. It brings me great sadness to report that Leonard passed away on June 3, 2001. Today, I wish to celebrate his life's achievements and mourn the passing of a great man.

Leonard Abess was born in Providence, Rhode Island to Romanian Jews. He moved to Washington D.C. in 1917 to live with an older sister after the death of his mother. He then enrolled in college at New York University where he took accounting classes at night while working full time during the day.

Leonard moved to Miami in 1925 to open an accounting firm inside First National Bank, where he was an independent auditor. Twenty-one years later he co-founded City National Bank, which is now the largest nationally chartered bank based in Florida. He went from making \$25 a week as a young accountant to making millions.

All those who knew Leonard would tell you he never let his riches stop him from caring about people. Leonard Abess despised bigotry and worked so that others could benefit from his philanthropy. He treated everyone with love and dignity.

In 1949, when local hospitals refused to hire Jewish doctors, Leonard and a group of Jewish residents pooled their resources to form Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. The hospital, of which Leonard was a founding member and a former chairman of the board of trustees, now has a \$300 million-plus operating budget.

Leonard's public service won him countless accolades. He was the recipient of the Anti-Defamation League's Man of Achievement Award and was also named their chairman emeritus. Leonard was the Humanitarian Award winner from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He and his wife, Bertha, who died in 1997, were recognized as Philanthropists of the Year by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives.

Leonard Abess was survived by his daughter Linda Ellis; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, along with his family, the community of Miami will be at a great loss for his wonderful spirit and generous philanthropic contributions.

IN HONOR OF HIRAM HOUSE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Hiram House, which will receive a historical marker for the important role it has served in the lives of Ohio youth for over a century.

Hiram House was founded in 1896 as Ohio's first "Settlement House" to address the needs of Cleveland's immigrants and others in poverty. It was one of the first of its kind in the entire nation. For the next 105 years, this organization effectively pursued its mission of providing a quality outdoor experience for youth that promotes character, self-confidence, and leadership.

Today, Hiram House offers a variety of Summer Camps, School Camps, Educational and Adventure Programs, and year-round Group Retreats for children—especially those from the inner city and disadvantaged homes. Following the theme of American History and the Pioneer Spirit, the camp features covered wagons, tepees, log cabins, and a frontier fort to provide children with a glimpse of life on the early frontier.

The Hiram House continues to make a profoundly positive difference in the lives of more than 7,000 children a year. It is my hope that it continues its service to the community for another century and beyond.

My distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in honoring Hiram House and the countless individuals who have provided admirable service to the Cleveland area for over a century.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
HONORABLE NAT PATTON

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of The Honorable Nat Patton, Jr., a man who embodied my hometown of Crockett, Texas in so many ways. Nat recently passed away on February 13, 2001 after the full life of eighty-eight years.

Nat Patton, the son of former U.S. Congressman and Mrs. Patton, was educated in the public schools of my hometown of Crockett, TX. It was his love for the game of baseball that led him to attend Texas A&M University, where he played shortstop for the Aggie Varsity baseball team. During his days at Texas A&M, Mr. Patton was elected president of his sophomore class and yell leader—a high Aggie honor—for the student body.

Nat Patton was destined for public service from his early years. Following in his father's footsteps, Nat had a special interest in politics and received his law degree from Cumberland University in Tennessee.

After passing the State of Texas Bar Exam, Mr. Patton returned to Crockett to enter private practice. He set his law career aside to serve his country in World War II, where he fought under General George S. Patton's Third Army, 89th Division, European Theater. Following the war he returned to Crockett and resumed his law practice.

From 1950 to 1980, Mr. Patton served Houston County as County Attorney. Upon retiring from public service after 30 years, Mr. Patton continued his private law practice.

Mr. Patton and his wife, Eleanor were married for 60 years. Both were active members of their community, participating in the First United Methodist Church of Crockett. During his service to the church Mr. Patton had served as a Sunday School teacher and as a

member of the administrative board. Mr. Paton was also a member of the Masonic Lodge, Knights of Pythias, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion.

Nat's friendliness, his welcoming smile, and his warm spirit will be remembered by many of us in Crockett as the personification of the hometown that we love.

We all share his family's profound grief in his passing, just as we have joined them in the celebration of his life.

We'll miss you, Nat.

CONGRATULATING TWILIGHT HAVEN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Twilight Haven for 40 years of service to the elderly in our community.

Twilight Haven was the first care facility for the elderly in the Fresno area. It was also one of the first homes for the elderly in the state that provided independent and assisted living with nursing care at one location. Twilight Haven is a volunteer, non-profit organization with government assistance.

In 1957 a group of local leaders from the German community collaborated with a group of local churches to form the Twilight Haven Corporation. Over 700 people joined the organizers to form the initial corporation. Since the companies inception, 1500 people have become members and the corporation presently has 550 members. Although the corporation was initially established by members from local churches, it is fully independent and not a subsidiary of any religious organization. The Twilight Haven facility was opened in November of 1960 in Fresno. Over the course of its 40 year history, the facility has gone through vast renovation. Today, the facility can accommodate about 255 residents. The facility has served more than 6,000 senior citizens and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to Twilight Haven for serving the needs of the senior citizens in our community. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Twilight Haven for its many years of providing outstanding care to the elderly in Fresno.

IN HONOR OF RALPH STANLEY, A MASTER FOR MASS TRANSIT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ralph Stanley. Mr. Stanley recently passed away, leaving behind him a legacy of outstanding public and private sector work in the transportation arena. Throughout his career Mr. Stanley established, among other things, a true expertise for mass transit projects.

Mr. Stanley was a graduate of Princeton University and Georgetown University Law School.

He joined the Transportation Department in 1981, serving as chief of staff to Transportation Department Secretaries Drew Lewis and Elizabeth Dole. He then served as the chief of the U.S. Urban Mass Transportation Administration for four years. During this time I worked closely with Mr. Stanley, particularly in the expansion of Metro for the Washington Metropolitan area. Had it not been for our working relationship, the vast system of public transportation we all enjoy today would not have been possible.

Mr. Stanley found the Virginia Toll Road Corporation in 1988 and spent four years as chief executive. In 1992, he became vice president for infrastructure and development for Bechtel. While at Bechtel, Mr. Stanley helped direct the expansion of the light rail transit system in Portland, Oregon, as well as the economic development of the land near the rail expansion.

Mr. Speaker, although Mr. Stanley and I did not always find ourselves on the same side of public policy issues, he was fair, forward looking and supportive of the transportation projects on which we worked together. Mr. Stanley was dedicated to create a better and more efficient transportation system for that we are grateful.

HONORING THE FREEDOM TOWER

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, since its inception, the United States has been a safe haven for those less fortunate. A Nation built around those seeking religious or political freedom. A new chance. A fresh start. Opportunities for themselves, and for their children and their children's children. And so, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a symbol of our Nation's freedom; one that has already welcomed generations of new Americans to our shores: the Freedom Tower.

The defining landmark of the Miami skyline for nearly 80 years, the Freedom Tower has represented to Cuban exiles the principals upon which our nation is based. And now the Freedom Tower is undergoing a well-deserved \$40 million transformation to become an interactive museum, library, and research center that will chronicle the experiences, hardships and triumphs of Cuban exiles on their journey to South Florida.

Originally the home to a Miami newspaper, the Tower became the Cuban Refugee Emergency Center in 1962 and remained so for over a decade. Known as "El Refugio," the Freedom Tower served as Florida's Ellis Island to the 450,000 refugees that made the journey.

Mr. Speaker, the Freedom Tower has already meant so much to the South Florida community. And a year from now this distinguished Miami landmark will take on new meaning. It will teach new generations of Americans about the history of Cuban refugees and how their bravery and belief in American ideals has shaped and bettered South Florida as well as all of America.

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HONORS PROVIDIAN FINANCIAL

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I have addressed the House on numerous occasions in recent years as a critic of the credit card industry and its marketing practices. Today, I would like to share with my colleagues a different story, of how two very different institutions have joined to recognize not only a significant business turnaround, but a change in practices that have enormous consequence for consumers.

One of these institutions is the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York, one of the world's outstanding centers of learning in the areas of business and technology. It is also located in Monroe County, one of the four counties I have the honor of representing. The other is Providian Financial Corporation, a financial services company and a major national issuer of credit cards based in San Francisco, California.

Earlier this month, the Rochester Institute of Technology joined with USA Today in awarding Providian the 2001 Quality Cup award for achievement in customer service. The award recognized Providian for the enhanced customer satisfaction program initiated by the company in May 1999 to address consumer complaints and litigation. Under this program, Providian has implemented more than 200 initiatives in the areas of customer outreach and communications, complaint processing, customer service and marketing practices. The results have provided a dramatic turnaround for the credit company. Since 1999, Providian's customer accounts have increased 60 percent and its assets have grown by 78 percent. At the same time, consumer complaints have declined 40 percent and customer attrition rates have dropped 38 percent.

The Quality Cup award was instituted by the Rochester Institute and USA Today in 1991 to recognize and foster quality in American business. It has been awarded annually to businesses, government and educational institutions, and health care organizations who use teamwork and total quality management to reduce costs, solve problems, increase productivity and enhance consumer service. This year, a judging panel consisting of Rochester Institute faculty, together with outside academics, industry consultants and quality experts, considered 146 nominees ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to small businesses. In addition to recognizing Providian in the customer service category, winners were also selected in the categories of government, health care, manufacturing and small business.

The recognition of the Rochester Institute and USA Today symbolizes the dramatic changes Providian has achieved in less than two years. Until recently, the company was mired in controversy and litigation. Late last year, Providian agreed to pay \$105 million to settle earlier class action litigation that alleged that Providian had routinely charged credit card accounts for products and services that consumers had not approved or authorized. The settlement was Providian's second within a year. In June, it also agreed to pay \$300

million to settle an enforcement action by the Comptroller of the Currency involving marketing practices that the Comptroller described as a "pattern of misconduct to mislead and deceive consumers."

Since implementing its customer satisfaction program in 1999 Providian has completely restructured its consumer marketing and customer relations operations. Particularly impressive has been Providian's willingness to go beyond the minimal requirements in Federal law relating to consumer protection, both in providing consumers with large type, plain-English explanations of credit card terms, as well as providing additional protections for their customer's confidential financial and personal information.

I want to congratulate Providian for the dramatic turnaround it has achieved and for its strong and growing commitment to customer satisfaction. I also wish to commend the Rochester Institute of Technology for its continuing efforts to recognize and promote excellence in business practices and consumer service.

IN MEMORY OF REV. VINCENT J. MORAGHAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the Reverend Vincent J. Moraghan for his service to the Cleveland community. He has served as a spiritual leader and mentor to many individuals for nearly four decades.

Rev. Moraghan began his life of religious leadership when he was ordained in 1965. Early in his journey, he served as Director of St. Vincent High School in Akron and later as Associate Superintendent of Schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. I believe there are few roles more honorable than those in the field of education.

Throughout his distinguished career, Rev. Moraghan served as Associate Pastor to a variety of Parishes before developing the new mission of St. Matthias Parish of Parma, where he was the first Senior Pastor. More recently he held the position of Pastor at the Holy Name Parish in Cleveland. During this period, he served as Dean of the Southeast Cleveland Deanery. In the last years of his life, Rev. Moraghan graciously worked as Chaplain at the Cleveland Clinic.

I was honored to attend the funeral of this incredibly compassionate man. Reverend Vincent Moraghan has had a profound impact on the lives of many individuals including family, friends, and the community. He will be dearly missed.

My distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in honoring the memory of Reverend Vincent J. Moraghan.

HONORING JIM TRAVIS OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM WSMV—CHANNEL 4 NEWS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jim Travis of Nashville, Tennessee, on the occasion of his retirement from WSMV—Channel 4 after twenty years working as a political reporter for the station. Travis is often referred to as the "Dean of Nashville Political Reporters" due to his thirty-plus-years experience covering Tennessee politics, first at the local ABC affiliate, where he spent ten years on-air, and then upon moving to the NBC affiliate.

While Jim's retirement is well deserved, his presence on Nashville television will be greatly missed. Travis began his journalism career as an announcer in Oklahoma at the University of Tulsa campus radio station more than forty-one years ago. After college, he spent several years working at television and radio stations in Alabama.

In 1970, Travis made his move to Nashville, Tennessee, working for the local ABC affiliate which made the transition from Channel 8 to Channel 2 during that time period. He furthered his education, graduating from the University of Tennessee at Nashville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Economics.

Beginning in the seventies, he made his mark on Tennessee politics, covering the administrations of Governors Dunn, Blanton, Alexander, McWherter, and Sundquist, as well as numerous sessions of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Jim's institutional knowledge of Tennessee politics and political figures is legendary. In 1982, Jim was awarded the coveted George Foster Peabody Award for excellence in journalism, along with several of his colleagues at WSMV—Channel 4. In recent years his coverage of the ongoing budget debate in the Tennessee General Assembly has garnered high ratings for the station time and again.

Although he has always been first and foremost a journalist, Jim enjoys bluegrass and classical music, as well as operating a ham radio and amateur photography. His love of ham radio began years ago, as a child, and while serving as a radio operator in the U.S. Army from 1963–1965.

Jim is also known for his love of life and close observation of personalities and people. Perhaps those traits have best served him in his chosen field along with his quiet smile and discerning demeanor.

Jim Travis is a beloved figure whose work has impacted literally thousands of Tennesseans over the airwaves during his career. He will be greatly missed upon his retirement, but deserves the very best that life has to offer both now and in the years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE DIALYSIS BENEFIT IMPROVEMENT ACT JUNE 19, 2001

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Medicare Dialysis Benefit Improvement Act of 2001. This legislation takes important steps to help sustain and improve the quality of care for the more than 250,000 Americans living with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). More specifically, this legislation provides the Medicare reimbursement for a routine fourth dialysis treatment for End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) beneficiaries who require more than three dialysis treatments per week.

Currently, Medicare's composite rate for hemodialysis for the individuals with ESRD is a one size fits all reimbursement system. This is despite the fact that more than 250,000 individuals with ESRD come in all ages, shapes, sizes and health statuses. Historically, the standard frequency for hemodialysis treatments to remove excess fluid and accumulated toxins has been three times a week. Simply increasing the usual thrice weekly four hour treatment sessions will not solve a problem as there are diminishing returns for longer sessions and this would decrease the rehabilitation potential of these patients and increase noncompliance.

It is estimated that only 10–15 percent of patients would actually receive a fourth treatment a week. While Medicare rules allow payment for additional hemodialysis treatments beyond the standard three times a week on a case by case basis for fluid overload, pericarditis and a few other unusual conditions, Medicare's fiscal intermediaries rarely approve claims for more than three treatments per week.

Furthermore, this legislation takes into consideration the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) report recommendation of a 2.6 percent increase to sustain patients' access to dialysis services in the 2002. This proposal would help ensure all dialysis providers receive the reimbursement that is in line with increasing patient load and quality requirements. The dialysis reimbursement is the only Medicare provider reimbursement that does not include an annual inflation adjustment. Therefore the only way in which dialysis reimbursement can be updated is by Congressional action.

As Congress considers further improvements to the Medicare program, I urge my colleagues to support this important effort to ensure patients with kidney failure continue to have access to quality dialysis services. I thank my colleagues for working together on this bipartisan proposal.

TRIBUTE TO NORM KIRSCHENBAUM

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of California's prominent

educators and public servants, Mr. Norm Kirschenbaum, who will retire on August 2nd after 39 years of dedicated service to his community.

For the past four decades, Mr. Kirschenbaum has been an integral part of the district's public school system. Involved in the educational process at nearly every level, Mr. Kirschenbaum has served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, educational director, and assistant superintendent before being asked to head the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District in 1999. His advancement through the ranks is most certainly deserved. Under his leadership, the district has achieved tremendous growth in the student Academic Performance Index. In addition, because of his unfailing dedication, the district has seen an increase in number of schools receiving California Distinguished School accreditation and has achieved a balanced budget.

In his many roles as educational coordinator, Mr. Kirschenbaum has worked tirelessly to improve management. An acknowledged trainee in Stephen Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People", Mr. Kirschenbaum started a district-wide program to train administrators, teachers, and support staff using the Covey model.

Mr. Kirschenbaum's achievements extend far beyond the district. Throughout the years, he has served on several state educational committees. In that capacity, Mr. Kirschenbaum helped to pioneer California's groundbreaking Holocaust and Genocide Framework. As a member of those committees, he worked to establish a foundation for effective year-round education. His extensive accomplishments in this area were sufficient to garner national recognition.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about Mr. Kirschenbaum is that, despite his many accomplishments, he remains humble. In a recent meeting of school officials, Mr. Kirschenbaum acknowledged the importance of working cooperatively in education and noted his delight in doing his part. "All this", he said, "could only have been possible through a team effort on the part of our entire school community. Our primary mission of raising student achievement in an environment that values the importance of relationship building and becoming more client focused has made the difference. I'm proud to have had a part in shaping this direction for our district."

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to personally commend Norm for his dedication to the students of Hacienda La Puente Unified School and the greater Southern California educational system. He is a model of the passionate American educator and devoted citizen. I know the rest of the House will join me in congratulating Norm and wishing him the best of luck in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF POLICE CHIEF
DOMINIC V. MEUTI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Police Chief Dominic V. Meuti who is

celebrating his retirement from the police force after 50 years with the Bedford Heights' Police Department.

Police Chief Meuti has a long and distinguished career with the City of Bedford Heights and is believed to be the longest-serving active police chief in the country. Mr. Meuti began his service in 1951 as a 21 year old mechanic. Earning just \$1.25 an hour, he accepted the position after only a few months of police work under his belt.

As chief, Mr. Meuti performed countless jobs to make sure the city ran smoothly. In the winter, he acted as the Service Department, and plowed the snow using his beat-up Chevy. In the summer, he patrolled the tiny village in his own car. Chief Meuti's dedication to his job was displayed with the countless hours of work he performed. During his tenure, the community has grown to over 11,000, and the force has expanded to 38 full-time officers.

Police Chief Meuti's life, however, is not consumed with the police force. His office is filled with family photographs and he remains extremely active in his local community. His kind spirit and warm smile attract people to him. He has served his community selflessly for 50 years and is an inspiration to many.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring a great man on his retirement. For 50 years, Police Chief Dominic V. Meuti has dedicated his life to public service. His love and dedication to his community will be greatly missed.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY APPLAUDS
THE WORK OF ROBERT LEVINE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to day in recognition of Mr. Robert Levine, the newly elected president of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC), for his commitment to and accomplishments on behalf of the educational and social well being of Central New Jersey's Jewish community. Bob has helped the FJMC contribute to the health of our nation's Jewish community. On July 14, he will assume the office of president of the FJMC.

Bob Levine is a long-time resident of Central Jersey. A former Middlesex County College computer science professor and independent training consultant, he has a distinguished career which has paralleled his nearly three decades of affiliation with the East Brunswick Jewish Center.

Bob has served as president of both the Men's Club of East Brunswick Jewish Center and of the FJMC's Northern New Jersey Region. He has also served as the Vice President and First Vice President of the FJMC, and has been responsible for overseeing a number of the Federation's many programs and committees.

Bob Levine's entire life has been characterized by his devotion to his family, faith and community service. I congratulate Bob Levine on his many accomplishments. I ask my colleagues to join me in praising his many contributions to our society.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTEN SCHAEFER,
LAURI CORBETT AND PAMELA
CALANDRA

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize three of New York's outstanding young students, Kristen Schaefer, Lauri Corbett, and Pamela Calandra. Today, on June 19th, the women of Girl Scout Troop 130, Service Unit 44 will recognize these students for receiving their gold awards.

Since the beginning of last century, the Girl Scouts of America have provided thousands of young women each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Kristen, Lauri, and Pamela, and bring the attention of Congress to these successful young women on their day of recognition.

H.R. 333, THE BANKRUPTCY ABUSE
PREVENTION AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION ACT

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. I had strong reservations about the measure, and voted in favor of every attempt to improve the bill during House consideration of H.R. 333.

I voted for a Democratic alternative which would have made a number of technical improvements to the bill and modified some of the most burdensome provisions on lower income debtors. I also voted in favor of the motion to send the bill back to the Judiciary Committee in order to make improvements. This motion would have prohibited credit card companies from issuing credit cards to minors who cannot show sufficient income to repay the line of credit. Although these measures failed, I voted in favor of the bill in order to move the legislation along in the hopes that the bill would be improved when it was sent to the Senate.

Unfortunately, this was not the case. The bill passed by the Senate maintains the House bill's onerous provision concerning the means

test to determine a debtor's ability to repay debts. The means test is inflexible and does not take into account individual family needs for public transportation, rent and food. The Senate bill also fails to ensure that child support payments will come first, ahead of the commercial creditors.

I will be closely monitoring the efforts of House and Senate negotiators to draft a compromise bankruptcy bill. Should the resulting bill include the anti-consumer provisions of the House passed bill, I will vote against the measure when it comes back to the House and encourage my colleagues to do likewise.

A TRIBUTE TO VINH TRONG NGO

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vinh Trong Ngo, a loving father of four and a community leader from Fresno, California, who died of a heart attack in Sacramento on May 10, 2001.

Mr. Ngo was born in Vietnam, graduated from Law University Saigon and later attended the University of California at Los Angeles.

He then returned to his home country and, in 1975 while fighting for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, was captured by North Vietnamese soldiers and spent the next five years in a labor camp. In 1980, Mr. Ngo escaped from the camp and fled to the United States.

Mr. Ngo received from the United States the Distinguished Award for Bravery and the Silver Star for his military service.

In the early 1980s, he earned a Master's degree in Family Counseling from Western Oregon State College and moved to California.

Over the years, Mr. Ngo worked as a legislative assistant to Senator JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona and was a principal consultant to former Californian Assembly Member Art Agnos of San Francisco.

For the past four years, Mr. Ngo worked as the regional director of public affairs and development for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte.

He was a leader in numerous community organizations, including the East Bay Vietnamese Association, the Refugee Federation of Oregon, Interfaith Alliance of Central California, Amnesty International, the Vietnam Veterans Association of California, the National Women Political Caucus and the Institute for Democracy.

He is survived by his wife, Namanh Bui, and four children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Vinh Trong Ngo and celebrating his legacy of service to his family, his community, and his country.

INDIA HONORS SWADESH
CHATTERJEE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks celebratory events have been held both in Washington and in my district in North Carolina honoring one of our most distinguished citizens, Swadesh Chatterjee, upon his reception of India's Padma Bhushan award in the area of public affairs. The award was conferred by the President of India on March 22, 2001.

Established in 1954, the Padma Bhushan is one of the highest civilian awards that the Indian government can bestow on an individual. Mr. Chatterjee is the first Indian American from North Carolina to receive this award and the first Indian American to receive the award in the public affairs category.

"As a young boy growing up in the small town of Somamukhi, West Bengal," Mr. Chatterjee recalled, "I remember how in awe I was of the men and women who were chosen to receive these honors." Yet for those of us who have come to know Swadesh Chatterjee and to appreciate his leadership, this award is not surprising and is richly deserved. For Swadesh Chatterjee has gained recognition in North Carolina as an astute businessman and a respected community and political leader, and in recent years he has become well known nationally as well.

Particularly noteworthy has been Mr. Chatterjee's presidency over the past two years of the Indian-American Forum for Political Education (IAFPE), one of the oldest and most respected Indian-American organizations in the nation. In this capacity he worked effectively to strengthen the organization at the grass roots and to raise its profile nationally. He helped stimulate the growth of our Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans. He encouraged President Clinton to make his historic trip to India last year and accompanied him when he went.

Mr. Chatterjee, his wife Manjusri, who is an accomplished psychiatrist, and their children Sohini and Souvik, are citizens of Cary, North Carolina, whom I am honored to represent. They have helped make the Indian-American community in our state a vibrant one, and they have greatly enriched our wider community as well. Swadesh Chatterjee once said that he and other Indian-Americans were "fortunate to be the children of two mothers: India, which gave us our lives, and the United States, which gives us our livelihood." He and his family are proud Americans who contribute a great deal to our country and remind us that being American does not require a masking or suppressing of our diversity; on the contrary, our country is enriched by the flourishing of the multiple ethnic and cultural traditions from which we came.

Mr. Speaker, the Padma Bhushan award is a fitting recognition not only of Swadesh Chatterjee's contribution to his native land but also of what he has contributed to America and to Indian-American relations. And while it surely represents a high point of his career, I am also confident that it points to even greater things to come!

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2211—THE
BURMA FREEDOM ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is only befitting the heroic struggle of the outstanding human rights and democracy leader in Burma, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize Winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, that I today, on her birthday, introduce H.R. 2211. This bipartisan legislation bans the import of all articles into the United States which were produced, manufactured or grown in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Tom Harkin and Senator Jesse Helms. Together our efforts in introducing the House bill today will close an important loophole in the current sanctions of the United States with regard to Burma.

I am taking this strong step in light of the ongoing egregious human rights violations which the Burmese people continue to suffer by the hands of the brutal military regime which now calls itself the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). This legislation, which is already cosponsored by my colleagues Constance Morella of Maryland, Benjamin Gilman of New York, Pete Stark of California, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, Nancy Pelosi of California, Christopher Smith of New Jersey, Donald Payne of New Jersey, Dana Rohrabacher of California, Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, Joseph Pitts of Pennsylvania, William Delahunt of Massachusetts, Robert Andrews of New Jersey, Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, Michael Capuano of Massachusetts, Lane Evans of Illinois, James McGovern of Massachusetts, Sam Farr of California, Albert Wynn of Maryland and Janice Schakowsky of Illinois, sends a strong signal to the Burmese military dictatorship that the United States will no longer allow one of the world's most brutal regimes to reap the benefits of its outrageous practices of forced and child labor, rape and the mass imprisonment of opposition and ethnic minorities leaders.

In response to the outrageous and systematic use of forced and child labor, the International Labor Organization (ILO) evoked in June 2000—for the first time in its 82-year history—an extraordinary constitutional procedure to adopt a resolution which calls on the State Peace and Development Council to take concrete actions to end forced labor in Burma. In an unprecedented step, the ILO recommended that governments, employers, and workers organizations take appropriate measures to ensure that their relations with the SPDC do not abet the system of forced or compulsory labor. In addition, the ILO urges other international bodies to reconsider any cooperation they may engage in with Burma and, if appropriate, cease as soon as possible any activity that could abet the practice of forced or compulsory labor.

Mr. Speaker, if we take our responsibilities as the world leader on democracy and human rights seriously,

Already in 1997, Congress enacted sanctions and former President Clinton issued an

Executive Order in response to the egregious human rights violations in Burma. These measures established the existing prohibition on U.S. private companies making new investments in Burma. The European Union followed suit and imposed economic sanctions on Burma, removing trade preferences, freezing the regime's assets, and issuing a ban on travel visas for the regime's leadership. That the SPDC is not totally insensitive to this kind of pressure became obvious when the military dictatorship surprisingly entered into a secret dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi now almost seven months ago, which unfortunately has not yielded any tangible results.

Existing U.S. investment restrictions, while an important step in the right direction, clearly do not go far enough. To everyone's surprise, despite the existing sanctions regime, imports of Burmese articles and goods into the United States grew steadily and are perfectly legal. We have to close this loophole, and our legislation would do that. We keep the pressure on the SPDC. Our conditions for the SPDC have to be absolutely clear and unequivocal: trade with the United States will only be resumed if the military regime allows sustained and measurable progress in the areas of human rights and democracy, and the SPDC must make significant progress in the talks with the only credible person involved in the ongoing secret negotiations, the winner of the overturned 1990 general elections and Noble Peace Prize Winner, Aung San Suu Kyi.

The 1999 State Department Human Rights Country Report on Burma cited "credible reports that Burmese Army soldiers have committed rape, forced portage, and extrajudicial killing." The report further describes arbitrary arrests and the detention of at least 1300 political prisoners. The most recent report by the State Department for the year 2000 finds that "The Government's extremely poor human rights record and longstanding severe repression of its citizens continued during the year. Citizens continued to live subject at any time and without appeal to the arbitrary and sometimes brutal dictates of the military regime. Citizens did not have the right to change their government. There continued to be credible reports, particularly in ethnic minority areas, that security forces committed serious human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings and rape. Disappearances continued, and members of the security forces tortured, beat, and otherwise abused prisoners and detainees. Prison conditions remained harsh and life threatening, but have improved slightly in some prisons after the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was allowed access to prisons in May 1999. Arbitrary arrest and detention for expression of dissenting political views continued to be a common practice. The Government held Aung San Suu Kyi incommunicado twice in September, following attempts to travel beyond the bounds of Rangoon City and to Mandalay. At year's end, the Government continued to hold Aung San Suu Kyi in detention; it also held 48 members-elect of parliament and more than 1,000 NLD supporters under detention, all as part of a government effort to prevent the parliament elected in 1990 from convening. Since 1962 thousands of persons have been arrested, detained, or imprisoned for political reasons; more than 1,800 political prisoners remained imprisoned at year's end."

In addition, Human Rights Watch reported that children from ethnic minorities are forced

to work under inhumane conditions for the Burmese Army, lacking adequate medical care and sometimes dying from beatings. The UN Special Rapporteur on Burma puts the number of child soldiers at 50,000, one of the highest in the world. In addition, a 1998 International Labor Organization Commission of Inquiry determined that forced labor in Burma is practiced in a "widespread and systematic manner, with total disregard for the human dignity, safety, health and basic needs of the people."

While current sanctions forbid new U.S. investments in Burma, the current Burmese imports into the U.S. rapidly grow and include apparel articles, fisheries products, gems, and tropical timber. In particular, apparel imports into the U.S. grew by 372 percent, rising from \$85.6 million in 1997 to \$403.7 million in

These imports into the U.S. provide the SPDC with growing hard currency income because they are directly involved in the production process as direct or de facto owners of production facilities in the apparel and textile sector.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must stand with the Burmese slave laborers, the exploited children, the imprisoned and raped political opposition members. Passing this important legislation would not only support and strengthen the ILO as a guardian of internationally accepted labor standards, but it would also make clear to the world that the United States will never trade democracy and the respect for human rights for trade benefits and cheap imports.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of H. R. 2211 be placed in the record at this point. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important bill, and I call on the House to speedily adopt this legislation.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Burma Freedom Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The International Labor Organization (ILO), invoking an extraordinary constitutional procedure for the first time in its 82-year history, adopted in 2000 a resolution calling on the State Peace and Development Council to take concrete actions to end forced labor in Burma.

(2) In this resolution, the ILO recommended that governments, employers, and workers organizations take appropriate measures to ensure that their relations with the State Peace and Development Council do not abet the system of forced or compulsory labor in that country, and that other international bodies reconsider any cooperation they may be engaged in with Burma and, if appropriate, cease as soon as possible any activity that could abet the practice of forced or compulsory labor.

SEC. 3. UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR MULTILATERAL ACTION TO END FORCED LABOR AND THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR IN BURMA.

(a) TRADE BAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, until such time as the President determines and certifies to Congress that Burma has met the conditions described in paragraph (2), no

(2) CONDITIONS DESCRIBED.—The conditions described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The State Peace and Development Council in Burma has made measurable and substantial progress in reversing the persistent pattern of gross violations of internationally-recognized human rights and worker rights, including the elimination of forced labor and the worst forms of child labor.

(B) The State Peace and Development Council in Burma has made measurable and substantial progress toward implementing a democratic government including—

(i) releasing all political prisoners; and

(ii) deepening, accelerating, and bringing to a mutually-acceptable conclusion the dialogue between the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and democratic leadership within Burma (including Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD) and leaders of Burma's ethnic peoples).

(C) The State Peace and Development Council in Burma has made measurable and substantial progress toward full cooperation with United States counter-narcotics efforts pursuant to the terms of section 570(a)(1)(B) of Public Law 104-208, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section shall apply to any article entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of enactment of this Act.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BLAKE ROBERTSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding public servant that has dedicated his adult life to serving his Nation as a United States Marine Corps Officer. Colonel Blake Robertson was first commissioned Second Lieutenant in the USMC Reserve in December of 1974. Since that time he has served in a variety of challenging command and staff assignments throughout the United States and overseas. His hard work and demonstrated excellence earned him steady promotions to the rank of Colonel.

Throughout his career Col. Robertson has increasingly taken on more challenging and difficult tasks. In his last assignment, as the Direct Reporting Program Manager for the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle, he was responsible for developing the Marine Corps' next generation assault amphibian. In this capacity he reported directly to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) and was responsible for the management of the only Acquisition Category I major defense acquisition program unilaterally managed by the U.S. Marine Corps. He Col. Robertson provided a steady hand in overcoming technical and programmatic challenges in achieving the program's cost, schedule and performance objectives. Given an austere budget and technically challenging

task, he marshaled these scarce resources into the Marine Corps' and one of the Department of Defense' finest Research and Development Programs.

Col. Robertson has provided unfailing leadership in implementing new Department of Defense acquisition reforms and Integrated Product and Process Development Teams. These new and innovative business practices have been the vanguard for Defense Reform. Under his steadfast stewardship, the program earned high distinction and accolades such as the Packard Award for Excellence in Acquisition, the Defense Superior Management Award, Government Technology Leadership Award and numerous environmental awards.

Now as Colonel Robertson retires from his beloved Corps, I ask the House to join me in wishing him "fair-winds" and "following-seas" as he pursues life's next challenges.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF CAPTAIN KEITH JACKSON OF
THE FREMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Captain Keith D. Jackson is retiring from the Fremont Police Department on July 19, 2001 after a 25-year career with the Fremont Police Department. Captain Jackson has been a vital member of the Department, has worked his way through the ranks and made significant contributions at every level.

Captain Jackson started at the Department September 1, 1975 as a patrol officer. He attended the 84th recruit academy at the Oakland Police Department prior to taking on patrol officer duties in Fremont. He worked as a patrol officer and a Field Training Officer for new recruits until June of 1980. At that time, he was transferred to the Investigative Section as a Detective. Captain Jackson distinguished himself as a Detective and was promoted to Sergeant in March of 1982. He returned to patrol and in October 1983 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. As a Lieutenant he worked as a patrol Watch Commander, Investigative Section Commander, Services Section Commander and returned to patrol as a second tour as Watch Commander between 1983 and 1988.

Some of his most significant contributions as Captain have been in the area of Special Projects. Captain Jackson was responsible for the architectural design of the new \$7 million Police Facility that the Department members and the public enjoy today. Additionally, he has been the lead on the planning and construction of the new jail facilities.

Prior to being hired at the Fremont Police Department, Captain Jackson had an exemplary career with the United States Marine Corps from 1969 to 1975 on active duty and as a reserve until 1979. Captain Jackson graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration in the ROTC undergraduate program at San Jose State University and upon graduation was commissioned as an officer in the Corps. He served in the areas of Air Division, Intelligence, Legal Officer and Security Officer. During his career

with the Marine Corps, he was rated as an expert with a pistol and rifle and was the winner of the prestigious National Leatherneck Award for marksmanship.

As previously mentioned, Captain Jackson has a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from San Jose State University. In addition, he has earned a Masters of Science degree from Cal-Polytechnic University Pomona, and a Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory and Management Certificate from the Commission of Police Officer Standards of Training from the State of California.

I join Captain Jackson's friends and colleagues in thanking him for his past contributions to the City of Fremont and wishing him well in his retirement years.

HONORING DR. JACK R. ANDERSON

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember Dr. Jack R. Anderson, our nationally honored superintendent of schools in East Ramapo, New York, who recently passed away.

Hailed by his peers as "The last of the giants in public education," Dr. Anderson served the children and community of East Ramapo for more than 20 years with dignity and dedication.

Dr. Jack Anderson arrived in East Ramapo in 1977 and breathed new life into a troubled school system. During his tenure, he restored sound fiscal footing to our school district, promoted the importance of technology as a central focus of our students' education, and played a key role in the passage of a \$22 million bond, which enabled East Ramapo to move forward with plans to maintain the schools' infrastructure and upgrade the educational program.

Superintendent Anderson led a districtwide grade reorganization, reinvigorated our teachers and staff through his support for educational innovation, and, due to his fiscal fortitude, the school district received the highest credit ratings from financial agencies.

Our 1994 "New York State Superintendent of the Year." Dr. Jack Anderson brought national recognition and attention to East Ramapo and our school district. His "Vision for the Future" Program in the area of computer education became the model for schools around the country and he established one of the first federally-funded teachers' centers in New York.

Dr. Anderson also served as chairman of the American Association of School Administrators' Federal Policy and Legislation Committee, as president of the Mid- and Lower-Hudson School Study Councils and Rockland Superintendents Association.

The vision, leadership, and caring spirit of Jack Anderson will be sorely missed not only by our East Ramapo community, but by thousands of students and parents throughout Rockland County.

Author Horace Mann once wrote, "The common school, improved and energized as it can easily be, may become the most effective and benignant of all the forces of civilization."

Thanks to Jack Anderson, our East Ramapo schools are improved and energized, and it is our children, the future of our Nation, who have benefitted.

CONGRATULATING LIONEL D.
BROWN WINNER OF CONGRES-
SIONAL ART COMPETITION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, after weeks of deliberation, I am pleased to announce Lionel D. Brown, of Bolivar County, Mississippi, as the winner of "Artistic Discovery 2001". This annual art competition is a real opportunity for our students all over Mississippi's Second Congressional District, which encompasses twenty-four counties, to showcase their talents. I was not surprised to see that we have a lot of young talented artist in the district. Lionel's magnificent block print painting, titled "A Long Journey Ahead" edged out the stiff competition to win this years contest. This year we had seventy-four entries from worthy participants. I am sure the judges had a tough job choosing just one. I am proud of Lionel and I will take great pleasure in displaying his artwork in the Capitol subway for all to see.

Lionel spent several months in preparation and effort in order to complete his piece. He is to be commended, not only on his winning piece, but on his success in life to date. Lionel is a recent graduate of East Side High School and plans to attend a college somewhere in the State next year. I urge him to apply and hopefully attend my alma mater Tougaloo College in Central Mississippi. He would be a welcomed addition.

Lionel is not only a talented artist, he is also a superb baseball player. He plans to pursue both of these endeavors in the future, where ever he goes. I wish Lionel the best and I am confident that he will do well in his "Long Journey Ahead".

HONORING THE NATIONAL ACADEMIC TEAM OF THOMPSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Thompson Intermediate School National Academic Team, on the occasion of recent victory in the National Academic League Finals.

The National Academic League is a nationwide contest between middle school academic teams that is set up like an athletic game. Each competition is broken into four quarters, and students answer questions about math, science, social studies, and language arts. The competition is a fun and educational way to develop fundamental skills.

Thompson Intermediate School's victory marks their third championship and fifth trip to the National finals. The victorious 7th and 8th graders included Tiffany Lily, Vishal Patel,

Christine Tran, Van Nguyen, Lam Lei, Wesley Bennett, Minh Bui, Ana Lopez, Justin Lai, Courtney Grimes, Grace Kim, Michael Cole, Adrian Ingalls, Tracie Thompson, Rustain Abedinzadch, Ryan Fox, Ryan Dawson, Bruce Lee, Henry Dao, and Richard Quach. The team was under the veteran leadership of coach Carolyn Carmichael, and Thompson Intermediate School Principal Greg Jones.

The finals were the culmination of hard work and rigorous training by the students. The Pasadena School District, the only Texas school district to compete, adopted the program in 1993 in order to motivate students and encourage academic achievement. After thirteen matches with the nine other district teams, Thompson went on to the National Competition with the strong support of all of their classmates. The students prepared for the competition in a separate National Academic League class. This advanced level class prepared the students for competition with a fast-paced and diversified curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Thompson Intermediate National Academic League Team have seen their dreams and hard work come to fruition as they have captured the National title. I applaud the hard work and diligence of these students, and wish them continued success in their studies.

TRIBUTE TO THE FULLER HAMLET
UNDER-11 GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the community of Sutton, Massachusetts in celebrating the success and triumph of the Fuller Hamlet Under-11 Girls Soccer Team. On Sunday, June 10, 2001 the girls won the Massachusetts State Championship by defeating Charles River United by the score of 1-0.

The achievement is impressive in itself, considering the fact that these young women were able to band together and earn an honorable achievement at such an early age. Attaining a championship is a feat that is cherished by all athletes, yet even at the professional level of sport not all are able to understand the exultation and excitement that these young women have just enjoyed. It is also worth mentioning that the Under-11 Girls team has joined the great tradition of winning, which has made the Fuller Harrilet organization a perennial force in girls soccer.

I would like to recognize the contributions of each individual who has taken part in such an exceptional accomplishment. The team was comprised of 17 players: Ashley Cubbedge, Erin Fleury, Brenna Flynn, Heather Gosnell, Karina Gregoire, Caitlin Lachowski, Marissa McCann, Robin Deschke, Rachel Norberg, Lauren O'Connor, Briana Paris, Melissa Stomski, Courtney Sturgis, Alexandra Tauras, Courtney Talcott, Nfichelle Cavaliene, and Suzanne Jensen. Recognition must also be extended to the head coach, Marc Bowden, whose prominence was clearly demonstrated by guiding these young ladies to the Under-11 Massachusetts State Championship.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I acknowledge the outstanding young women

athletes of the Under-11 Fuller Hamlet Girls Soccer Team for a noteworthy season. I congratulate them, with great promise of future excellence, on their most exceptional accomplishment and wish them the best of luck in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HARRY
FORD, BRIAN FAHEY AND JOHN
DOWNING

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of 3 New York Firefighters, the bravest of the brave. This past Father's Day, Harry Ford, Brian Fahey and John Downing died in the service of New York. These men were prepared for and paid the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives to save others. Far too often the courage and selflessness of firefighters go unnoticed and unrewarded. Unfortunately, it takes a tragic fire in Astoria, Queens, to remind us of just how important they are. Firefighters personify courage and all that we as a nation hold dear. My prayers are with their families and their fellow firefighters. They will be missed but not forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN L.
STOKESBERRY ON THE CELE-
BRATION OF HIS RETIREMENT
ON JUNE 21, 2001

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a distinct privilege to rise and pay tribute to one of my community's unsung heroes, Mr. John L. Stokesberry, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade County Alliance for Aging, Inc. His friends and admirers will honor him on June 21, 2001 at a retirement dinner in Miami, Florida in recognition of the longevity of his service to the elder citizens of Florida.

Mr. Stokesberry is truly one of the noblest public servants of my community. Having dedicated a major portion of his life to making the health care system work on behalf of Florida's senior citizens, he has been relentless in his development of innovative elderly service programs that responded to the crying needs of our community's seniors. His was indeed a crusade of love and commitment that maximized understanding and compassion for countless destitute families who severely lack the financial wherewithal to have their elder members' welfare move up through the labyrinth of the bureaucracy.

Under his leadership many lives have been saved and countless families have been rendered whole because of his dedication to create accessibility to affordable elderly health care and welfare services. He was virtually the lone voice in the wilderness in exposing his righteous indignation over the hopelessness of countless senior citizens who through the various crises of poverty rendered them helpless before obtaining affordable quality health care and welfare services for them.

Furthermore, he has been forthright and forceful in advocating the early recognition of the problems affecting the elderly population of our state. Under his tutelage, the Alliance for Aging, Inc. and other ancillary centers on aging and development disabilities have been established to provide outreach programs in various segments of our community. Together they have initiated educational programs for its elderly population long before the crisis was recognized, and federal, state and local funding became available. His knowledge of and sensitivity to Florida's seniors knew no bounds, and he was likewise untiring in seeking the appropriate elderly care guidance for them.

In various articles on his role in facilitating upgraded quality service to our elderly population, Mr. Stokesberry was genuinely lauded as an elderly care provider par excellence who has shown courageous leadership and extraordinary vision, forcefully insisting that high quality services must be provided on behalf of our nation's burgeoning senior citizens population and must be constantly upgraded with constant community input and collaboration.

The consecration of his life serves as an example of how much difference a committed crusader like him can truly make on behalf of the less fortunate. Almost singlehandedly he has championed a career-long commitment to affordable quality senior care service for nearly three decades.

In his stint as State Director of the Florida Office of Aging and Adult Services and on to his leadership role at the Alliance for Aging, Inc., Mr. Stokesberry ensured the provision of high quality, accessible senior care to the elderly population in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. During those harrowing times of cutbacks in health and social services funding for seniors at the federal, state and local levels, his innovative and uncompromising commitment enabled his office to maintain its critical role, while leading efforts to ensure that program effectiveness and a caring approach were not compromised.

Mr. Stokesberry truly represents an exemplary community servant who abides by the dictum that those who have less in life through no fault of their own should somehow be lifted up by those who have been blessed with life's greater amenities. As a gadfly among Miami-Dade County's and the nation's elderly care professionals, he is wont to prod his colleagues toward ensuring that both political and bureaucratic leadership must find a way to develop programs in and of the community, despite the risks.

As one of those hardy spirits who chose to reach out to senior citizens from various segments of our community, Mr. Stokesberry thoroughly understood the accouterments of power and leadership. He wisely exercised them, alongside the mandate of his conviction and the wisdom of his knowledge. The crucial role he played all these years in developing affordable quality care for our seniors evokes a genuine humility as he is wont to say that "... the accolades are not important. What is important is that my community receive the recognition of its strength amidst its diversity, and get the help for the disproportionate share of the problems our senior citizens confront everyday."

It is indeed an honor for me to have had the privilege of knowing this gentle and caring man. His word has been his bond to those

who dealt with him, not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many of our elderly turn their lives around, but also in his resilient quest to transform Miami-Dade County into a veritable loving community.

Tonight's tribute is genuinely deserved! I salute Mr. John L. Stokesberry, a very dear friend, on behalf of a grateful community that he truly loved and cared for. I bid him now Godspeed on a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE HOUSTON FAMILY REUNION

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the "26th Annual Houston Family Reunion." In 1975, the children of Butler H. and Ida Bell Houston organized the very first "Houston Family Reunion." This annual week-long celebration culminates each year on Independence Day, July 4th. This year the Houston Family will meet in Houston, Texas, at the Westchase Hilton and Towers.

The Houston family's roots sprout from the small town of Plant City, Florida. This year, more than seven generations of Houston descendants will travel to Texas from as far away as Illinois, California, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, Arizona, Georgia, and the District of Columbia. There are no obstacles too large or distances too far, to separate this family on the event of their annual family reunion.

The Houston family is a very distinguished group of people. Among them are several professionals; doctors, lawyers, accountants, and educators. The values of honor, integrity and education are deeply instilled in the Houston family. They place a strong emphasis on the importance of community involvement; hence, their involvement in the many Christian organizations in Houston.

This year's reunion will highlight the current matriarch of the Houston family, Theodosia (Aunt Louvenia) Houston Knighten. Theodosia is the oldest living child of Butler H. and Ida Bell Houston. During this year's festivities, Dr. Joe Reed, Sr., the family's historian, will present an in-depth look at the family's ancestry.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend this year's reunion; however, I extend my best wishes for a fun and memorable event. I also wish them continued success in future celebrations.

IN HONOR OF DR. THEODORE J.
CASTELE, M.D.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a great man, Dr. Theodore J. Castele, on his achievement of the 2001 West Side Ecumenical Ministry's Lamplighter Humanitarian Award.

Dr. Castele, the first television news doctor in the country, has served the Cleveland and

global community in many different capacities. He is most known for almost a "billion video house calls" where he discussed everything from the latest medical breakthroughs to the cure for a common cold.

His professional duties led him much further than television. Dr. Castele is also affiliated with Case Western Reserve University where he has been Interim Associate Dean of Development and Alumni Affairs, and is now Chairman of the Dean's Technology Council. Since 1961, Dr. Castele has taught medical and surgical interns at Lutheran Hospital and recently he began teaching at Fairview Hospital. His love of medicine and his true desire to help people in need have boosted his professional career to astounding heights.

However, Dr. Castele is not only active in the medical community. He has contributed thousands of hours to countless community organizations including The Humility of Mary Health Care System, the Health Museum of Cleveland, The Boy Scouts of America, and many others. He was recently recognized by the American Medical Association for his outstanding contributions to the community and was also named "Outstanding Man of the Year" by the Eagle Scout Association of Greater Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Theodore Castele for a lifetime of dedicated service. Dr. Castele has remained active in the medical and local community his entire life. His love has touched so many in Cleveland. I am proud to have such a dedicated community leader in my district and wish him the best of luck in the future.

HONORING MATT PATRICK

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Matt Patrick, former Executive Director of the Boulder County AIDS Project (BCAP). After having served the people of Boulder for nearly six years, Matt has left BCAP to become Program Officer for the Gill Foundation, based in Denver. With him serving as director, BCAP experienced an evolution of philosophy.

Under Matt's guidance, the BCAP budget doubled to nearly \$1 million and the staff grew by 50 percent. Importantly, during his time as Executive Director, BCAP expanded its outreach programs to target the workplace as well as Latino/a communities. Further, BCAP was selected as the best non-profit in Boulder County three times under Matt's direction and received numerous other awards.

Matt was also instrumental in the evolution of BCAP as a multiculturally proficient organization. As Executive Director, Matt incorporated policies and procedures to enhance the diverse nature of BCAP. Now there is multicultural training, a diversity coordinator and an agency wide multicultural staff.

During his tenure with BCAP, Matt and his staff gave much thought as to whom the agency's clients were—whom it was BCAP should be serving. According to Matt, "To me the reality of our mission is twofold—to serve people living with HIV and to slow the spread of HIV infection in the community." Simply consid-

ering those infected with HIV as clients of BCAP was not enough for Matt; it was only half the mission. In fact, in the year 2000, BCAP had 35,000 educational contacts as where six years ago this number was around 10,000.

By expanding educational and outreach programs, Matt Patrick served his community, the community of Boulder, Colorado as few have. I recognize his service and pay him honor.

HONORING PASTOR FREDDIE GARCIA

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Freddie Garcia for his hard work and contributions made throughout Texas, New Mexico, California, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Puerto Rico. Pastor Garcia's hard work and commitment to God has improved and affected many lives.

Pastor Freddie Garcia was born June 10th, 1938 in San Antonio, Texas. Growing up, Pastor Garcia faced many difficult situations; his largest obstacle was drug addiction. Pastor Garcia overcame his addiction to drugs upon finding and devoting his life to God. In June 1966, Pastor Freddie Garcia married his wife Ninfa. The two have been happily married and are committed to a life with God.

Pastor Garcia graduated from the Latin American Bible Institute in California in 1970. In 1972, Pastor Freddie Garcia and Ninfa founded Victory Fellowship Outreach. The program provides teachings on issues such as: family, education, discipline, the church, and community while also focusing on individuals in need of reconciliation and rehabilitation. Victory Fellowship Outreach has cured over 13,000 people from drug addiction.

Within Victory Fellowship Outreach there are many other ministries that reach out to help troubled individuals. The Victory Home-Christian Rehabilitation Center is open 24 hours and located in drug infested areas of San Antonio. The Center feeds and houses women and men in need of shelter and healing from life-controlling addictions. The Center has expanded across the United States and abroad. The Victory Leadership Academy has a two-year curriculum designed to equip workers with the skills necessary to run Christian rehabilitation centers. These centers also exist across the United States and throughout the world. Campus Outreach is a Youth Task Force comprised of former gang members who confront and challenge both junior high and high school students with lectures, discussion panels, classroom participation, and one on one interaction to discuss the evils of gangs and drugs. Victory Fellowship Outreach also offers Drop-In Centers which are located within housing projects offering emergency housing for troubled individuals and Jail and Prison Ministries which provide inmates with personal visits and Bible Correspondence Courses.

In 1988, Pastor Freddie Garcia published *Outcry in the Barrio*, an autobiography. In 1990 former President Bush presented him with the Achievement Against the Odds Award.

Pastor Garcia is a model citizen helping others with troubled pasts and troubled lives become model citizens. I would like to thank Pastor Freddie Garcia and his wife Ninfa for all they do, have done and will continue to do in the name of God and a better America.

DISCUSSION ON U.N. CONFERENCE ON RACISM

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, ANC leader Thozamile Botha once said, "We cannot choose war, we have come from war". To my colleagues and friends here today, I say that we cannot choose racism, because we have come from racism. It has brought us, and our children nothing but strife and sorrow. We all need each other in this new era of globalization. The time has come for us to stop harming each other because of our differences, and start using our differences to strengthen our weaknesses.

Racial discrimination has been an historical tragedy in all countries. Those countries, which enjoy lavish wealth today, do so because they were the oppressors of yesterday. Now, stands an opportunity to stop the cruel cycle of racial discrimination.

Historically, social structures and cultural beliefs combined to legalize racial oppression. Many lost opportunities or faced obstacles to living a prosperous life because of racial discrimination and abuse. The message rings loudly throughout any society as to which lives are considered more valuable. This instantly creates intense conflict within society.

A society that places and holds certain citizens in poverty and at a disadvantage with respect to occupation and education create an environment that induces many negative social ills—poverty, illiteracy, and crime are just a few. If all persons are expected to support and abide by the system, then the system should value all life equally. Those who will receive unequal treatment from the system may not honor it with equal respect.

The Conference on Racism focused initially on dismantling apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid fell, but just as with slavery in the United States, the remnants of inequality still remain.

International conflict now goes beyond nations going to war with one another. The wars of "the post, cold-war era", involve conflict among groups and neighbors who have lived side by side for generations. The world has become a new and politically unfamiliar place to many, and with unfamiliarity brings the desire to cling to that which they know and condemn that which is unfamiliar.

Why are so many countries afraid to address the issue? We know racism is everywhere, and it threatens to overwhelm us all if we do not place safeguards to prevent the harm it would incur.

The root of racism is fear. Fear of not being on top, fear of not being given preferential treatment, fear of competing for resources. However, the most powerful fear is one of a diminished self-worth. Too often those who perpetuate racism have intertwined their feelings of worth and confidence with the comparative status of those around them.

Hence, we do not struggle to improve life for one group, we struggle to change the false sense of superiority of another group—and it is this fear of losing superiority that frightens most. However, the only cure is to show them that a better world exists, not just for the oppressed, but for them as well. It is a new world that many cannot begin to imagine. It is this world that the U.N. Conference wishes to promote. The reality many people experience in the world today is not just emotionally painful, but it has many other ramifications that fall like stacks of dominoes. The effects of racism spread quickly and can soon pour into every community, harden and form the foundation of social institutions; and every mind of every person becomes polluted.

Our failure to address racism, as an international community is the reason we have so much international conflict. Racism should be viewed as a mental illness, and without a cure or an attempt at prevention, will create the sick atrocities we witnessed in Rwanda and Bosnia. We must find new ways to monitor hate and distrust before it reaches epidemic proportions. As global citizens we face not just diseases of the body, but of the mind and the spirit. We have too long focused on those problems we can see, and have pathetically crawled away from the true source of its origin.

U.S. citizens consider themselves the guardian of individual liberties. It was our political ancestors who created the framework that became the United Nations. It was our first ambassador, Eleanor Roosevelt who established the Human Rights Commission.

The U.S. urgently seeks its renewal on the U.N. Human Rights Commission. To those who wish to accomplish this, I give a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt. "Where after all, does universal rights begin? In small places, close to home . . . unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world."

I join my colleagues in an earnest plea for the administration and Congress of the United States, to give their full support to the World Conference on Racism and send an official delegation to Durban, South Africa.

We have been a staunch promoter of human rights and underlying any democratic philosophy is the belief that all men are created equal. This is the core of human rights and eliminating racism should be at the core of our domestic and foreign policy. We are not calling upon the world to repent, but to acknowledge the past, refuse to ignore the present and hopefully challenge the future.

LABOR AND THE LABOR FORCE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative BONIOR for organizing a special order on labor and the labor force in our country. Rather than wait until the first Monday in September, I, too, appreciate the role of labor and organized in our economy.

In my District, which is largely the Mississippi Delta, I've witnessed the transition

from agriculture to gaming. Ten years ago, there were no casinos in the State of Mississippi. Today, more than twenty-two casinos operate in my Congressional District. The Second District of Mississippi is one of the more rural areas in the country. While we grow cotton and soybeans and farm-raise 85% of the nation's catfish, we can sometimes lose sight of the men and women who make it all possible.

When we adjourn in the House, most times you can find me headed to Mississippi. When I get home, I hear all the concerns of hard-working folk who just want to make a better way of life for their families. No, they don't complain about how they can't contribute as much as they want to a campaign or how the estate tax is threatening to take away their farm. My constituents just want to be treated fairly and thought of as men and women.

Time after time, we see corporate executives pitted against common folk who want to know that they are not being mistreated. Just like all of us here in the Congress, our workforce wants to enjoy life. There's nothing wrong with paying hard-working people a decent wage. There's nothing wrong with providing a safe working environment. There's nothing wrong with environmental standards. There's nothing wrong with health insurance for the working poor—folks who are too rich for Medicaid but too poor for the HMO's. There's nothing wrong with forming credit unions and providing other benefits to assist our workforce, many of whom are turned away by traditional lending institutions. Mr. Speaker, these comforts are taken for granted by some here in the Congress.

In closing, I ask "What's wrong with an honest day's pay for an honest day's work?" As we carry out our duties in this House, let us not forget the men and women who have made our economy what it is.

ASTORIA HARDWARE FIRE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory and recognition of John Downing, Harry Ford and Brian Fahey—three of New York's Bravest, members of the New York City Fire Department, who were killed in the line of duty on Father's Day, Sunday, June 17.

Every day, firefighters take risks by putting their own lives on the line in an attempt to save innocent people who may be trapped in a burning building or are otherwise endangered by a spreading fire. Heroic action taken by the men and women of the New York Fire Department is not an occasional event, but something that occurs daily. The routine risks they take are not recognized enough by the people who they protect. Unfortunately, it always seems to take a tragedy, like the one which occurred last weekend to fully recognize the heroism around us every day. I am heartened to see the outpouring of sympathy that has been expressed in New York and across the country for these brave men who fell in the line of duty.

Working on Father's Day was just part of the job for these three heroes, who were entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the

lives of the people of New York City. When tragedy struck, Rescue Company 4, which included Mr. Ford, and Mr. Fahey and Ladder Company 163 where Mr. Downing was assigned, were sent to fight a fire at a hardware store in Astoria, Queens. All three men, like their entire companies, were doing exactly what they were trained to do, the same thing they had done hundreds of times before. Unfortunately, this fire would lead to their deaths and the injury of 50 others.

Although we think of them today as heroes because of their valor in the face of death, all three men were heroes long before this fatal Fathers Day. Harry Ford was a 27-year veteran of the New York City Fire Department. Along with his wife Denise, he was the father of three children, Janna, Harry and Gerard. During his distinguished career, he earned ten bravery citations, including one for rescuing a baby from a burning building. As the senior member of his Company, he was held in a certain reverence by every member of Rescue Company Four.

Brian Fahey was a veteran firefighter of 14 years. He was also a member of the elite rescue team, whose most important job is to rescue their fellow firefighters imperiled in the process of saving the lives of civilians. He leaves behind three sons, Brendan, Patrick and James and is the husband of Mary.

In 1992, 11-year veteran John Downing had a brush with fame. A plane trying to take off from LaGuardia Airport slid into Flushing Bay, killing 19 people. Firefighter Downing was captured on the front page of the Daily News the next day, heroically carrying victims away from danger. He is survived by his wife Anne, and their two children, Joanne and Michael.

Words alone cannot express the sadness we all feel in the death of these men. I can only begin to express the sympathy I feel for their families and their friends, especially those who worked alongside them in their gallant profession. These men will continue to go on fighting fires, with this painful reminder of the great risk of their calling. To these men and women, I want to take the opportunity to

say "thank you" for the job that you do, often without praise or acknowledgement. Keep up the good work. I hope we all can let the example of these three heroes, John Downing, Harry Ford and Brian Fahey serve as an example for all of us.

I would also like to pay tribute to the 50 other people who were injured while fighting this deadly fire, including firefighters, EMS workers, police officers and civilians. My sincerest thanks and prayers go out to all of you, especially Firefighter Joseph Vosilla, an 11-year veteran of Ladder Company 116, who is still in critical condition at Elmhurst hospital, and Lieutenant Brendan Manning, a 19-year veteran of Battalion 49 who is in stable condition at New York Weill Cornell Center.

Mr. Speaker, these heroes made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. I know the entire House joins me in paying tribute to their incredible bravery. May God bless them and their families.